

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
JANUARY 17, 2003

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, January 17, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members Present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg (by phone), Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Members Absent: Mr. Jimmy Murphy and Mr. Lawrence Warren.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Jason Pugh, Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Mr. Jim Southward, Mrs. Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College and Dr. Bill Smith – Institutions of Higher Learning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mrs. Brenda Yonge gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of December 12-13, 2002, Meetings

Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Major General Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 12-13, 2002, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Mrs. Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher announced that Dr. David Potter, current president of Delta State University, had been selected to replace retiring Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Tom Layzell. Dr. Stonecypher has invited Dr. Potter to attend a future SBCJC meeting to visit with the Board.

Dr. Stonecypher gave the Board an update on the efforts to transfer the administration of post-secondary vocational technical education to the SBCJC from the Mississippi State Department of Education (SDE). He stated that talks with Dr. Henry Johnson, State

Superintendent of Education are continuing in relation to entering into a contractual arrangement with the SDE to administer those programs.

Dr. Stonecypher asked Mr. Jason Pugh to give the Board a report on the upcoming Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) substantive change visit set for February 17-21, 2003. Mr. Pugh reported that the Spring 2003 Session began this week. All of the functions of the system are going well, and there are currently approximately 600 course sections being offered during the Spring semester. The class entry total as of today is 15,072 equating to a head count enrollment of 8,569 students. The MSVCC growth rate continues to increase.

Mr. Pugh distributed a copy of the Interview Schedule for SBCJC members (Exhibit A). The interviewers have requested to meet with the Board on Thursday, February 20, 2003, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. He urged Board members to be present. On the handout he included some questions that might be asked along with information that might help Board members in preparing for the interviews. He gave a brief report on the planning activities and actions being taken to ensure that the SACS team will have the information they need to complete the visit.

Mr. Pugh distributed a copy of a PowerPoint Summary Report presentation developed as a result of a Survey of MSVCC Distance Learning Students for the Fall Semester of 2002, that SACS prepared and conducted (Exhibit B).

Dr. Stonecypher gave a report on an ETV program that focuses on education in Mississippi. The program will run on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The first program featured Dr. Tom Layzell, Dr. Henry Johnson, and Dr. Stonecypher. Dr. Evelyn Webb gave the Board a report on future scheduled programs and announced that the theme for February will be Accessing Education.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that Governor Ronnie Musgrove would be traversing the State to visit with schools, community colleges, and universities during the next two weeks. He distributed a copy of the meeting dates and sites for the Board's information (Exhibit C). The Governor has issued an invitation to the Board and community college presidents to attend the meetings in their districts.

In light of the recent activations of Mississippi National Guard units, Dr. Stonecypher reported that each community and junior college would work with affected students to determine a solution that would allow them to continue and complete their courses. The SBCJC has a resolution adopted during the Gulf War that encourages the college to do all possible to work with students that find themselves in transition to active service.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that next month staff would make a recommendation for the SBCJC's appointment to the Mississippi Post-Secondary Education Financial Assistance Board. The current appointee is Mr. Wirt Hayes from Holmes Community College.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that an advertisement for a public relations position for the SBCJC is being prepared for release. Upon a motion by Major General Brackeen and a second by Mrs. Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to support the concept of hiring a public relations specialist for the SBCJC office.

In response to a suggestion by SBCJC member Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Dr. Stonecypher stated that a Certificate of Appreciation was developed for retirees from the Mississippi Community and Junior College system. Dr. Evelyn Webb distributed a draft copy of the certificate for the Board's review. Dr. Webb will ask the college presidents to name a contact person to communicate with the SBCJC office in obtaining information on the retirees, and certificates will be prepared in May and December of each year. The certificates will give the name of the individual, position and title, the number of years of service, and the date of their retirement.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that Dr. Tommy Davis had issued an invitation to the SBCJC to hold a future meeting at East Mississippi Community College.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis gave a report on a meeting the presidents had with Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck, Senator Travis Little, Senator Jack Gordon, and Senator Bill Minor. The meeting gave the presidents a sense of how the Senate would approach funding the community colleges for fiscal year 2004 and confirmed their commitment to help fund the colleges as best they can. The presidents were given an opportunity to express their concerns and needs.

The presidents relayed their concern related to the rising cost of property and casualty insurance. In response Senator Tommy Robertson contacted Dr. Stonecypher about proposing a bill where each college would carry a \$25,000 deductible. The State of Mississippi would then step in with \$275,000, making it total to a \$300,000 deductible. This plan would greatly decrease the premium amount and save the colleges between 40% and 60%.

Dr. Davis announced that the presidents held a special meeting on January 14, 2003, to review their endorsement of Scenario One of the MGT of America, Inc., funding formula study recommendation. During the meeting the MACJC voted unanimously to endorse and support Scenario Two that included a base of 15% and a n FTE funding formula with a phase-in period of five years.

Dr. Davis personally invited the Board to hold the April 2003 meeting at East Mississippi Community College. On Thursday before the meeting the Board will assemble at the Golden Triangle Campus and visit the Center for Manufacturing Technology and the new academic facilities located there. The Board meeting will be held on Friday at the Scooba Campus.

Workforce Report

Mr. George Walker discussed last year's funding and the recommendations for fiscal year 2004. He reported that he and Mr. Joe Jones will begin meeting with Editorial Boards across the state to promote the funding needs for workforce training.

Mr. Walker has requested that the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) representatives call a meeting of their local District Workforce Councils to draft

resolutions to their legislators in support of efforts to retain funding for workforce training programs.

Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Duane Hamill will meet with the SWDC in February to facilitate updating the SWDC's strategic plan.

Mr. Walker gave a brief report on meetings between representatives of the SWDC and the Federal Workforce Investment Board to try and build a bridge between the agencies to tap into additional training funds. A third meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Mr. Walker encouraged the Board to attend any of the Editorial Board meetings he and Mr. Jones set up in their local areas.

Fall 2002 Enrollment Report

Dr. Larry Day presented a report on Mississippi Public Community and Junior Colleges' Enrollment at a Glance for Fall 2002, pointing out the highlights for the Board's information (Exhibit D).

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave the Board a report on an EdNet Board meeting held on Friday, December 20, 2002. One major item of business discussed is the WorldCom bankruptcy status. Ms. Eileen Schaefer, a Jackson attorney specializing in corporate bankruptcy is working to protect EdNet's interest. WorldCom has agreed to give EdNet all the equipment necessary to complete the build out of the entire system.

A committee had been formed to work out fee schedules for all the services EdNet can offer to constituents. Recommendations will be made to the EdNet Board next Tuesday.

EdNet will soon receive \$50,000 from the Mississippi Health Alert Network Project for an engineering study to establish 200 receive sites. About \$400,000 will be received for the equipment required to encrypt special programming and for the antennas and other equipment located at the receive sites. Some 115 hospitals and 85 health departments will be involved in the project.

Dr. Webb reported that Dr. Olon Ray is working on developing a strategic plan for EdNet. The plan will be presented to the EdNet Board at next week's meeting.

*The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Program Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry presented a request from Copiah-Lincoln Community College to alternate their LPN and Health Care Assistant programs at the Natchez Campus on a two year rotating schedule. Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve Copiah-Lincoln Community College's request to alternate their LPN and Health Care Assistant programs on a two-year rotating schedule at the Natchez Campus.

Legislative Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed a list of proposed legislative bills that could directly and indirectly effect the SBCJC and community colleges (Exhibit E). He briefly discussed the legislation with the Board.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the disbursements from General Fund 2298 for February and March 2003, in the total amounts of \$6,745,899 each (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for January 2003, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,860,096 (Exhibit G).

Mrs. Fox presented the following items, requiring no action, for the Board's information:

Quarterly Capital Improvements Report (Exhibit H)
Joint Legislative Budget Committee Recommendations for FY 2004 (Exhibit I)
Governor's Budget Recommendations for FY 2004 (Exhibit J)
Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of December 31, 2002
(Exhibit K).

In other business, Mrs. Fox reminded the Board that the travel mileage reimbursement rate decreased from \$0.365 to \$0.36 effective January 16, 2003.

Funding Study Update

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher made a recommendation that the SBCJC accept the MGT of America's report, approved unanimously by the MACJC presidents as expressed in Scenario Two (Exhibit L). The plan would include a five-year phase-in, with a 15% base, and with a trigger of obtaining additional funding in the amount of \$692,506 to hold harmless the colleges that would lose funding based upon implementation of the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) funding formula. Upon a motion by Major General Denver Brackeen and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to accept the MGT of America's report and endorse the recommendations outlined in Scenario Two.

ABE/GED Report

Mrs. Eloise Richardson gave the Board an update on the activities of the GED Division. The SBCJC office is working with local programs to design a new teacher evaluation and aid instrument that will be utilized at the local level. Mrs. Richardson announced that five programs are now piloting a new MIS data base system for the state.

Mrs. Richardson stated that training will be done during the annual spring meeting on how to analyze and evaluate data submitted to the SBCJC office in order to improve their local programs.

Mrs. Richardson announced that several other states are very interested in the Mississippi GED On-Line Courses. She also reported that the statistical figures for the GED Test for calendar year 2002 should be available by the end of next week.

Representatives of GED Testing Services will be at the SBCJC office in two weeks to work with GED Examiners on the new GED Test Center Assessment Forms. The Strategic Training and Resource Specialists (STAR) will be visiting GED Testing Centers across the State. She gave the Board members a copy of the GED Test Center – Assessment Form field instrument (Exhibit M).

Mrs. Richardson distributed a copy of the GED Information Bulletin on the Test of General Educational Development for the Board's information (Exhibit N). GED Testing service will provide 500 copies free of charge to each program requesting them.

Location of Classes for Spring Semester 2003

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a listing of locations of classes for the colleges for the Spring 2003 semester (Exhibit O). The listing includes classes scheduled for 24 campuses, 6 comprehensive centers, 3 extensions centers, and 78 off campus locations. Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Mrs. Sara Fox, the Board vote unanimously to approve the listing of locations of classes for Spring 2003.

Department of Education

Dr. Henry Johnson, State Superintendent of Education, joined the meeting and thanked the SBCJC for inviting him to meet with them. He stated that a strong collaboration between educational entities would serve the State of Mississippi well. Dr. Johnson shared some of his philosophy on how the K-12 system might be improved. The state must be sure that students are taught to read. A skills set must be developed so that teachers can assess and address problems to ensure that students are successful. Dr. Johnson stated that a focus on obtaining and retaining quality teachers is a priority. He also stated that it is important to work toward better instructional leadership in schools. Schools must address a rigorous academic experience for every single student that enters school, taught by an excellent teacher in a safe orderly environment.

Mr. Walker thanked Dr. Johnson for meeting with the Board.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

All SBCJC members for attending the Special SBCJC meeting on January 9, and the MGT of America, Inc., presentation to the Legislature on January 27, 2003, in Jackson, Mississippi.

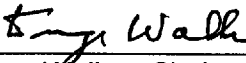
George Walker for attending a SWDC meeting in Jackson on January 8, WIA meetings on January 10, and January 28, and a meeting at Coahoma Community College on January 21, 2003.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to hold the April meeting on April 10-11, 2003, at East Mississippi Community College.

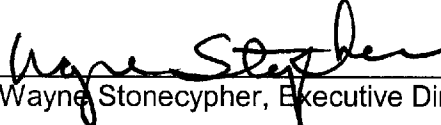
In other business, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg suggested that a card be forwarded to SBCJC Board member, Mr. Jimmy Murphy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



George Walker, Chairman



Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director